

Mr. Speaker, let us give praise to these soldiers and their families for their service and their sacrifice. They deserve as much.

CONNECTICUT PRE-ENGINEERING PROGRAM

(Ms. ESTY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ESTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a group of five talented students from Danbury. These students, part of the Connecticut Pre-Engineering Program at Danbury High School, won Best in State in the second annual Verizon Innovative App Challenge.

With the guidance of their teacher advisers, Jack Tracey and Linda Kimble, they created an app, Mediminder, that reminds people to refill their prescriptions and provides them with their doctor's contact information.

As a member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee and as a cofounder of the congressional student app competition, I am a strong believer in hands-on opportunities like this. In fact, this weekend, I will be hosting an app workshop in Waterbury.

When students create and design their own app, they transform from passive consumers of technology into active innovators, problem solvers, and entrepreneurs.

Tommy, Anjali, Lexie, Steven, and Sameena, I applaud your innovative spirit. Congratulations on winning Best in State. I can't wait to see what you come up with next.

HONORING DR. FERNANDEZ FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO MEDICINE IN SOUTH FLORIDA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the contributions of Dr. Bernardo "Bernie" Fernandez to medicine in south Florida.

Dr. Fernandez will soon assume the post of CEO of Baptist Medical Health Group, and he is an accomplished doctor with a record of success as CEO of Cleveland Clinic Florida. His leadership in the field of medicine earned him the distinction of being named one of America's best doctors and the title of Fellow at the American College of Physicians and the Society for Vascular Medicine and Biology.

Dr. Fernandez has given back to the south Florida community by actively participating in charitable groups and supporting our shared alma mater, the University of Miami. However, none of this is done in a vacuum and is only accomplished with the love and support of his wife, Rosy, and their children, Steven and Cristina.

Again, I congratulate Bernie for his leadership, and I know that our south

Florida community will continue to benefit from his more than 25 years of experience. Congratulations to Bernie.

HEALTH INSURANCE SIGN-UPS SURGE

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, these are heady days in the State of Connecticut where both the UConn men and women are in the Final Four, shocking the world.

Mr. Speaker, there has also been another team working hard in the State of Connecticut. That is the assisters, navigators, insurance agents, community health centers, faith-based groups, and call center employees who have been enrolling Connecticut citizens in the Affordable Care Act at a frantic pace.

As of Monday night, they had enrolled 197,000 Connecticut citizens. Even though the target that HHS gave last summer was only 100,000, they doubled the target that was given to the State of Connecticut. Why? Because these assisters, like Marianne Martinez, said:

I heard a lot of stories from people who hadn't had insurance or seen a doctor in years. Some people came in expecting insurance would cost them \$500 a month, and it turned out to be only \$40 or \$100. It was a breath of fresh air.

Congratulations to all those individuals who are helping, helping people in this country get access to health care. And go, Huskies.

ADMINISTRATION RELEASES DANGEROUS CRIMINAL ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the administration claims historic record deportation numbers, but a recent report by the Center for Immigration Studies found that immigration agents only attempted to send home about one-fourth of the illegal immigrants they encountered in 2014, and 68,000 of those released back into our communities have criminal records.

When the administration puts criminal illegal immigrants back in our neighborhoods, it can have tragic results. Not only do these illegal immigrants take jobs from unemployed Americans, but they also pose a threat to the safety of innocent Americans.

These dangerous criminal illegal immigrants are likely to repeat their offenses. In 2012, the Congressional Research Service determined that over 26,000 illegal immigrants were re-arrested almost 58,000 times. Suspected crimes included theft, robbery, and murder.

The President's immigration policy threatens the safety and lives of thousands of Americans.

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CLIMATE CHANGE

(Ms. BROWNLEY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the severe impact of climate change across the United States.

On Sunday, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a new report, laying out the ways that climate change has already impacted our economy.

Climate change threatens our coastal communities through ocean acidification and sea level rise. It threatens our big cities by making extreme weather events, like Hurricane Sandy, more frequent and more intense. It threatens all of us who rely on rain to water our crops or on snow for our drinking water.

California faces a future where less snow and earlier snowmelt will strain our already scarce water resources. 2014 is already one of the driest years in our State's history. Who knows what 2015 will bring?

I call on all of my colleagues to come together in a meaningful and bipartisan way to tackle climate change.

RYAN BUDGET PROTECTS DEFENSE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, House Budget Chairman PAUL RYAN unveiled his vision of a budget, which will reduce Washington's out-of-control spending and will put our country back on a path to prosperity.

For years, the President has targeted our military in order to support his Big Government agenda. Last month, the administration announced plans to reduce the size of our Armed Forces to levels of those prior to World War II, putting American families at risk.

Chairman RYAN recognizes that our brave men and women in uniform, military families, and veterans are the ones who dedicate their lives to keeping us safe. His budget proposes to strengthen national security.

The primary function of the national government is to maintain a strong national defense. I appreciate Chairman PAUL RYAN for committing to ensuring the safety of every American at home and abroad.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

RYAN BUDGET

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the draconian

budget proposal released by House Republicans yesterday.

In Las Vegas and across the country, Americans have made it clear that our budget should bolster a strong middle class and make serious investments in the next generation.

This Republican proposal, however, shrinks investments in infrastructure and education, cuts funding to research and development, eliminates the safety net for our most vulnerable citizens, and breaks the longtime promise to seniors by, once again, attacking the Medicare guarantee. These cuts undermine our short-term recovery, and they shortchange critical investments that will keep us competitive in the global economy.

In short, Republicans ignore solid American values, instead doubling down on inconsistent assumptions and budget gimmicks that just do not add up. This budget should have been released on Groundhog Day, but I guess that April Fool's Day is just as appropriate.

I say to you: Don't be fooled.

REMEMBERING RAY HUTCHISON— A TEXAS ICON

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember Ray Hutchison, husband to our colleague, former Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, a great Texan and an even better friend.

Through his work in developing nearly every public works project in our area in the past 50 years, Ray Hutchison is leaving a lasting mark on the north Texas community. He was a driving force in creating the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, one of the largest airports in the country today, as well as developing the Dallas Area Rapid Transit system. He also contributed to several professional sporting facilities in the area. We can thank Ray Hutchison for moving the Washington Senators to Arlington in the early 1970s, giving us our beloved team, the Texas Rangers.

Ray's selflessness and abundant accomplishments are too great to list in just 1 minute, but I am proud to have known him. On behalf of the Texas delegation, I offer my sincerest condolences to former Senator Hutchison and to her children, Bailey and Houston.

DISCHARGE PETITION FOR BIPARTISAN, COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

(Mr. LOWENTHAL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LOWENTHAL. Mr. Speaker, last week, I signed the discharge petition on H.R. 15, the bipartisan, comprehensive immigration reform bill.

Today, I stand with millions of families across our country to call upon Speaker BOEHNER to simply bring H.R. 15 to the floor of the House for a vote. This bill secures our borders, provides an earned pathway to citizenship, and increases economic opportunity for all Americans. We request a vote—no, we demand a vote. We demand a vote, Mr. Speaker.

We demand this vote because the American people are tired of living under a broken immigration system and seeing families broken apart. The American people know that passing this bill will save our country \$900 billion over the next two decades. We know that the American people overwhelmingly support immigration reform with a path to citizenship.

Mr. Speaker, give the American people that vote.

NATIONAL AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH

(Mr. YODER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YODER. Mr. Speaker, not only is April National Autism Awareness Month, but more specifically, today, April 2, is World Autism Awareness Day. Today, we join with families all across the world in a sign of support, unity, and encouragement.

According to the Department of Health and Human Services, nearly one in 68 babies born will be diagnosed with some degree of autism. Families dealing with autism are in all of our districts, and they are in our communities. They are our neighbors, and they are our families and friends. Yet far too little awareness and support occurs for these families that are raising an autistic child.

April is one more opportunity to spread the word and remind others about autism, and to raise awareness about the importance of research and advocacy for Americans who are living with developmental disabilities. Families dealing with autism bear their challenges admirably and lovingly, raising children into adults who contribute to our country in so many ways. Today, we celebrate those families and their many accomplishments.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to recognize April as National Autism Awareness Month.

RYAN BUDGET PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, the Republicans released their budget blueprint to the American people.

Budgets are moral documents that reflect our priorities as a nation. Republicans have clearly outlined their priorities in this budget, which are:

raising taxes on the middle class, cutting taxes for multimillionaires, and hurting seniors by ending Medicare as we know it. The budget plan introduced this week offers no real solutions.

If your thing is massive cuts to nutrition, health care, and other critical supports that give low-income children and families a decent chance at life, then the Ryan budget is your deal.

Instead of making these hits on the middle class, we should focus on improving education, investing in domestic manufacturing, and paving the way for a good future.

Also troubling is that the Ryan budget rejects the opportunity to enact immigration reform, to raise the minimum wage, and to extend unemployment insurance, which would create jobs and strengthen our economy.

As elected leaders, we owe it to the American people to invest in them, not to cut the safety net from under them.

MARFA, TEXAS

(Mr. GALLEGOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GALLEGOS. Mr. Speaker, today, in my 23-in-1 journey, I would like to take you to a beautiful city in West Texas known as Marfa.

Established in 1883 as a water stop for the railroad, Marfa has become a cultural mixing bowl, with cowboys and artists alike. Located in the Trans-Pecos area at an altitude of over 4,800 feet and situated on what is known as the Marfa Plateau, it is surrounded by a beautiful landscape that has served as the backdrop to many notable movies, like the film "Giant," starring James Dean and Elizabeth Taylor.

Despite having a population of only 2,000 people, Marfa has become a hidden cultural hub in the desert. It is a place filled with cowboys and art galleries, Mexican food and Texas barbecue.

In Marfa, you will find one of the most beautiful, historic courthouses in Texas. The antelope literally play amongst the rich outdoor art, and the tourists come to relax, surrounded by big city culture in a town with only one traffic light.

In Marfa, the old crashes with the new to form a harmony that is truly American. I am honored to represent a city so rich in art, cultural life, and history. Mr. Speaker, I invite everyone to Marfa.

AN AFFRONT TO DEMOCRACY

(Ms. SHEA-PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court's conservative majority has decided the very wealthiest Americans should now be allowed to have even more influence in politics to advance their personal or political or business agendas.